

THE GRAND ARMY BOYS.

Twenty Thousand People Witness the Veterans Parade in Denver.

"Sherman's Bummers" Enliven Camp Life During the Evening.

A Fall Synopsis of Commander in Chief Paul Vandervoort's Annual Address.

Every Train for the Mountains Landed Down with Members of the Order.

DENVER, CO., July 26.—A fitting finale to Tuesday's magnificent military pageant of the Grand Army was the parade of the Flanbeau club of the Lincoln post of Topeka, Kan. Twenty thousand people witnessed the display. The encampment held a business meeting yesterday. Commander in Chief Paul Vandervoort delivered an address, of which the following is a very complete synopsis:

Another march is ended and we have pitched our tents in the shadow of the snow-capped mountains in this beautiful city on the plain and again clasp hands, renew the old ties, sing the old songs, and march with steady steps in grand review.

It is true that those who touched each last night have passed beyond the silent river, yet, as in the days of war, when our ranks were thinned by disease or torn by shot and shell and the vacant places were filled by the reserve or the recruits called again and again, so now we meet with solid front, thickened lines and firm purpose, having drawn from the ranks of the old grand army thousands to fill the places of those mustered out.

We meet in a state that is not one of the stars on the flag we fought for from '61 to '65, in a city that was then only a station on the long line of march toward the setting sun. But the star is now gleaming on the flag, and the city by its wondrous growth, its open hearted hospitality, and its queenly beauty, has become of world wide renown, and the citizens of the whole state warmly welcome the Grand Army and greet them not only as the guests of the princely city, but the continental state joins gladly in the joyful acclam.

The land where our weary feet have halted in the march to the final roll call was almost a wilderness when the war began and when it ceased. Its mineral wealth was yet untouched. Its plains were untilled. Its quarries were unopened. Its fountains of sternal youth unrequited save by the wild savage. Its mountain peaks unexplored. Its sparkling, foaming mountain streams, rushing down through grand canyons to the wide plains, were as in the days when the adventurous white man had not turned his wandering footsteps hither.

To-day magic cities have arisen. Untold mineral wealth has been taken from the rock-bound mountains, long lines of steel cross the foaming torrent, pierce the grand cliffs, climb dizzy heights, and carry the world's commerce from the east and the west, and it is a happy thought that this progress, this onward move of the car of fortune, this red flame of the torch of liberty, the glory of civilization, the triumph of education, the wonders of the expansion, would not have been possible had it not been for the victories of the Grand Army of the Republic. We who have come from the east to the west, free west, greet our comrades from the Atlantic shores and take them to our hearts and homes in fraternal charity and loyalty, and thank God that we are all united in one common country and under one star-decked flag.

When I assumed the duties of my office I determined that I would show that I appreciated the high honor by devoting all my time and all the energy and ability in my power to building up our order. During the year he had attended nine department encampments, delivered 140 addresses, visited 150 posts, and traveled 40,400 miles. Kansas is again the banner department. The gain in that state to March 31 is 6,798 members and 127 posts; Missouri comes next with a gain of 57 posts and 2,105 members; Iowa, 1,638 members and 78 posts; Michigan, 691 posts and 3,640 members; Wisconsin, 1,082 members and 46 posts; Indiana, 4,171 members, and 109 posts; Colorado, 148 members, with New Mexico and Dakota separated from it; Illinois, 3,357 members, 69 posts; Vermont, 547 members; Ohio, 6,849 members, 94 posts; New York, 7,263 members, and 88 posts; Pennsylvania, 4,033 members, and 89 posts; Nebraska, 1,759 members, and 52 posts; Minnesota, 821 per cent gain; Maine, 1,344 members and 12 posts, and Massachusetts, 1,571 members, and 9 posts. These gains are up to and including March 31, 1883. All the departments show a gain, and in the supplemental report showing an increase during the June quarter the grandest increase in the history of the order is noted. Illinois alone gained in the June quarter 103 posts and 3,765 members. The total gain in the year was 971 posts and 55,076 members, or 60 per cent. During the year the following permanent departments have been organized: West Virginia, Kentucky, Oregon, and Idaho; Arkansas, Louisiana, and Washington, and New Mexico, the last named being a semi-national department. The prospects are good in Tennessee, where there is now a sufficient number to organize. The Gulf department has posts at New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Galveston, and Sherman, Tex.

The post at Honolulu is in fine condition and bids fair to include every veteran on the island.

I am delighted at the progress made in the work of establishing soldiers' homes under the auspices of the Grand Army. Many of the departments are doing wonderful work in this direction, and all of them should at once take active steps toward providing homes for the poor members of our order. I had the pleasure of visiting the home established by the department of Massachusetts at Chelsea. My eyes grow dim when I think of that visit. That alone would have paid me for all my labors in behalf of the Grand Army.

It is the grandest monument of the splendid department which so nobly represents the principles of our order. It is a home presided over by a veteran and a veteran's wife. The walls of the veterans' only room is that they cannot be beat in comfort and style.

The national homes are or will be immediately soon. We want our comrades near us so that we can visit and cheer them and learn them that they are precious to the comrades of the Grand Army, and besides they can be used for memorial halls in which to preserve our records. I also passed by the site of the home to be provided by the department of California. It will soon be ready, and is located in a beautiful valley close by the mountain. Almost perpetual summer reigns there, and it will be a delightful spot for the weary veterans to pass away the remnant of their lives.

I have heard many complaints in regard to the treatment of the inmates of the soldiers' home at Dayton, Ohio, and would recommend that a committee be appointed to investigate the statements made.

The question of what will become of the records and history of the Grand Army after the final muster-out has taken strong hold upon my heart.

I believe our record in peace will eclipse our glories in the war.

PITTSBURG, PA., July 26.—United States Special Detective Perkins, assisted by a number of officers from this city, arrested John S. Gordon, Robert McInroy, Albert Crossan, and John P. Buck this morning near Sir John's Inn, Morgan County, W. Va. The parties are members of an organized gang of highwaymen, who have been operating in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia for several months with considerable success.

Big Real Estate Sale.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., July 26.—The Boston syndicate of real estate owners at Newport has sold to John P. Payne, of New York, all the shore land and some other at the eastern point, purchased a few years ago of the Gibbs Land company at 4 cents per foot. The largest part of the land has a magnificent view. About twenty acres had been sold. It is believed that the consideration, which is kept secret, is in the neighborhood of 15 cents per foot for the whole, which would be \$100,000.

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Human Bones.

TRENTON, N. J., July 26.—Workmen engaged in cleaning a casket to-day on South Warren street found a number of human bones. An examination was made, and the theory that there was a portion of a skeleton in the possession of some doctor or a medical student was not borne out. There will be a further investigation.

A Piece of Cold News.

CRAWFORD, July 26.—A dispatch from the Crawford house, Pennsylvania, states that there was a heavy frost there last night.

have kept even pace with the rapid growth of the Grand Army. In every department the noble women have banded together in one form or another to assist us in caring for our sick and destitute comrades and those dependent on them. Many of the members helped, suffered, and sacrificed during the war, and many have grown up since, and here find an enlarged field for the development of their charitable hearts. They have accomplished great and lasting good. I am a firm believer in the work of women. I am glad that these societies do not confine their membership to the wives and daughters of soldiers, but admit all who are worthy to engage in the work.

No case of the violation of the rules and regulations of our order in reference to pollution has come before me during my term of office. The case brought before the encampment at Baltimore has been settled harmoniously by the action of the department of Indiana.

The early builders of our organization wisely foresaw the insidious influence of partisanship. The grand comrades who have preceded me in command, each referred in strong, vigorous terms to the fact that the order, if it would be lasting, must be non-partisan.

No principle is more firmly established. We have in our ranks men of all parties and creeds. Honorable service in the war for the union is the only test, and we care not for the political faith of any member of our noble order. Faithful service in the war for the union gives an old soldier the right to believe, act, and vote as he deems best.

We stand in this to-day, holding with loyalty, frankness, and the ties of brotherhood on a common platform—waving aloft a torn and discolored honorable discharge, and exemplifying fraternity, charity, and loyalty.

I have heard the doctrine advocated that the sentence in our installation service, "That we should stand by the soldier though the whole world assail him," means that we should do so if our comrade is a candidate for a political office.

The Grand Army fetters the conscience of no member. It gives the largest liberty to all. It stands aloof from the strife and clash of parties. "It will stand by the comrade though the world assail him" in sickness, in distress, when the old wounds reopen, when the wife and children are destitute. It will take old veterans from the almshouse. It will remove their dust and bones from a pauper's grave and bury them in holy ground. It will procure employment. It will lighten up the desolate home with the glowing illustration of charity. It is an political and religious society, with wide and varied sources of thought, and our conscience as something we will not surrender to any order in the hand.

In conclusion the commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic said:

The year to me has been one of uneasiness. Employment. I can never forget the warm greetings and heart welcome given me from Maine to Washington territory. There may be peculiarities and customs that give a distinctive mark to the people of different sections of our vast nation, but the Grand Army are the same everywhere. Their fraternity is warm and glowing. Their charity as boundless and their loyalty unwavering and firm as in the older days. Our love passes that of brothers. Ah, it was welded in the fire of battle, in the gloom of prison, in the agony of the hospital "in days of battle and days of rest." Twenty years have whitened the hair, has added the marks of increasing years, but it has not obliterated our joy in meeting and greeting each other, recalling that old tie on the pleasure of recalling the memory of days long ago, or the sadness when we bring back to our thoughts the comrades who are buried along the line of march from 1861 to 1863. I shall never forget the year almost gone; it will ever be my most precious recollection. The way was long, the march toilsome; but it was cheered and brightened by countless tokens of love, sweet courtesies, and generous appreciation, that made it a march in the vale of paradise. I have not even a bitter thought to cast a shadow on the past. I bear "malice toward none." I have a heart warm with fraternity for all, and an ardent desire for the happiness, comfort, and prosperity of every member of the Grand Army. I only ask that I may be remembered as having done all that I could for the order I love next to the treasures of home. I have not longed for the moment to come. I abando[n]ed the field of duty with regret; I shall ever be true to the Grand Army, and do all in my power to build it up until it includes every man who wore the blue.

I again thank every comrade, the loving women, the loyal men, the grand host all along the line of march who have cheered me, the hundreds whom I never met face to face, who have written me glowing words of encouragement.

[The address included a full exhibit of the past year's work, showing the Grand Army to be in the most prosperous condition.]

The election of commander-in-chief will probably take place on Friday morning. It is stated that Gen. Barnum has the support of twenty-one out of twenty-five of the New York delegates. Nashville and Minneapolis are struggling for the next annual encampment. The chances are in favor of the former place. There was a general jollification at the camp last night. The "Sherman Bummers" paraded and the Flanbeau club reviewed.

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